

Hythe and Dibden 3rd X1 2024 season report

Well, it started pretty well, a close win against Lymington 3rds was followed by losses to probably 2 of the best sides in the league in Sway and Suttoners. June was the best month for us... we won 3 games out of 4, narrowly beating New Milton by 10 runs and Ellingham 2nds by 1 wicket and with 1 ball to spare...Billy Stroud takes a bow. We only lost to Bashley because a monster scored 150, don't know how many times we dropped him -lol, we lost by 6 runs chasing 253. The final game in June was a 2 wicket win against Hyde chasing 166... promotion was the dream and sitting pretty in 4th spot behind the leaders.

Well, then it all went wrong, Drew injured his shoulder playing football on hard ground, Billy Wizz suddenly got old, and calf strained and went for treatment in Spain. KP Nuts went to India on holiday - the wheels were coming off.

Selection was becoming a problem the more the season progressed, further up the food chain players were not turning up consistently and players were required to assist the 2nd team promotion push. Luckily, magician Jamie always managed to find a few to help, and the 3rd and 4th team would split the players to make sure we both played and were relatively competitive.

The 3rd team did not win again for the rest of the season, but to be fair we were competitive in the majority of games, bowling most sides out in the process proving we were one of the best bowling sides in the league. The 3rd team this year mainly lacked on the batting front and also not having that 1 player who comes on week in, week out and hits it to all parts for fun. We had many a collapse at the end of an innings, but it was still enjoyable to play in, and hopefully the players enjoyed the ride of 7 – 2 fields which worked so well in the 1st 6 weeks. (apart from Matt Bennett).

All the players contributed this year and a big thank you goes out to them for making themselves available and that they kept going when up against it and against what was quite a good league with 9 of the opposition teams being either 1st or 2nd teams respectively.

We finished a credible 12th with a won 4 and lost 9 record, so we did not get relegated, which was a bonus. More batting practice required.....lol.

